

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**AUGUST 31, 2004**

**PRESENT:** David Hurley, James Gage, Walter Moody, Glenn Eberly, and Shawn Costello

**ABSENT:** Jesse Amsel

**STAFF**

**PRESENT:** Reanna Goodreau, Land Use Assistant

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Costello called the Ellington Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE**

**III. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Discussion of "Rails to Trails" with Town of Stafford

Chairman Costello introduced Bob White from Stafford and explained that he is working independently on a "rails to trails" project. Mr. White explained that he is looking at the old trolley line that used to go through Stafford, Ellington, Tolland, and Vernon. He showed the commission a sketch of the location of the old railway. Mr. White noted that he is not a member of the Stafford Conservation Commission, but he is looking to form a committee in order to facilitate the project. Chairman Costello asked what Mr. White was looking for from the commission and was told that he is simply looking for a contact in order to keep the commission up-to-date. W. Moody noted that he was interested in being the contact for the project.

2. Request of First Selectman Dennis Milanovich for conceptual endorsement of the Route 286 (Pinney Street) Fire House Facility

First Selectman Dennis Milanovich came forward to explain the request. He stated that the Town is looking to move the Pinney House from its current location to the open space parcel across the street (currently known as the Santini Conservation Park). He noted that instead of continuing with original the firehouse plan, the Town would relocate the Pinney House and use it for administration and then a morton barn and silo would be constructed to house the fire equipment. He also noted that the new conceptual layout would not exceed the 3-4 acres that the original plan layout had. Mr. Milanovich stated that he is not looking for a blanket endorsement, but that he is looking for feedback and would come before the commission with an actual plan.

The commission discussed the project. Many commissioners thought that the proposal addressed many different needs of the town.

**MOVED (MOODY), SECONDED (HURLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO CONCEPTUALLY ENDORSE THE ROUTE 286 (PINNEY STREET) FIRE HOUSE FACILITY AS PRESENTED BY THE FIRST SELECTMAN.**

#### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Commission workshop on Open Space Plan

The commission discussed the various sections of town and decided that for the final open space plan that there would only be seven sections. There was discussion about the commission setting a percentage of open space for the town to strive for. The commission also reviewed a draft mission statement to be included in the plan. The commissioners decided to continue to refine the statement. The commission reviewed the draft open space plan outline and asked R. Goodreau to update the draft outline to reflect discussions from this meeting for the next meeting.

#### **V. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

1. Approval of July 27, 2004 meeting minutes

**MOVED (HURLEY), SECONDED (MOODY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE JULY 27, 2004 MEETING MINUTES.**

2. Discussion of the Build Out Report from the First Selectman

R. Goodreau explained that the First Selectman had sent a copy of the Build-Out Report with a cover letter asking each commission to forward their recommendations of action to the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Costello requested that this item be placed on next month's agenda.

3. Discussion of "CenterEdge"

R. Goodreau gave an overview of "CenterEdge" and explained that a meeting will be held by them to discuss the findings of their "Metro Patterns" report.

4. Discussion re: Design Review Board Issues/Status

R. Goodreau explained that the outline for the Design Review Board (DRB) stated that the DRB would review open space, and Matt Davis wanted clarification because open space design is a role of the Conservation Commission.

5. Correspondence:
  - a. Letter to Jim Gage from Emery Zahner, dated 8/3/04
  - b. Memo to PZC from Matt Davis, dated 8/5/04
  - c. Letter to James Gage from Attorney Joe Ryan, received 8/9/04

- d. Letter to Dennis Milanovich from Joseph LaPere, received 8/16/04

**MOVED (COSTELLO), SECONDED (EBERLY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE JIM GAGE TO DETERMINE THE PRICE OFFERED FOR THE FRIEDMAN PROPERTIES (APN 164-003-0000 & 125-002-0000) ON PORTER ROAD & THE VECCHIOLLA PROPERTY ON SOMERS ROAD.**

- e. E-mail from Matt Davis to J. Gage, S. Costello, & R. Goodreau, dated 8/23/04
- f. The Habitat, Spring 2004

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOVED (GAGE), SECONDED (AMSEL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:08 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Reanna Goodreau  
Recording Secretary